

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
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Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write to express our support for the communities' preferred bids for Essential Air Service (EAS) to Devils Lake Regional Airport, Devils Lake, North Dakota and Jamestown Regional Airport, Jamestown, North Dakota.

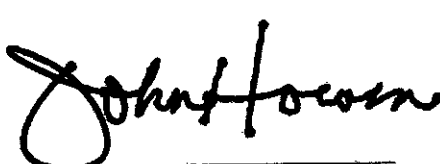
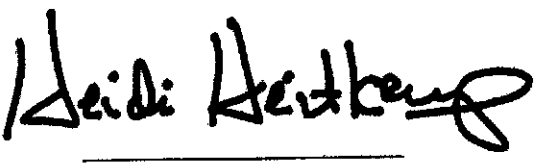
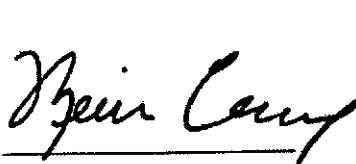
Both Devils Lake and Jamestown have experienced numerous problems with their current EAS contract, and have communicated an interest in pursuing a new route option to Denver, which will provide a competitive option for customers. Because there are fewer regular routes to Denver from North Dakota, the airports would be well positioned to attract ridership to the nearest major western hub and subsequent connecting cities.

We want to specifically address two concerns with the preferred bids. The first is the increase in costs per passenger. We recognize that budgetary pressures on the EAS program require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to be discerning with the allocation of resources; however, we believe an up-front investment in the preferred EAS bids will yield much higher dividends for the program and the communities. With the increased attractiveness of the route option, paired with more reliable service, we are hopeful the popularity of the communities' preferred bids will result in increased ridership and allow the subsidy cost to fall in future contract periods.

Second, concerns have been raised that the communities' preferred EAS bids fall short of the 12 round trip EAS requirement. We request that you waive this requirement to allow consideration of the EAS bids. The communities have made abundantly clear in their communications with the DOT that they will accept a lower number of round trips in exchange for more reliable service. The preferred EAS bids to Devils Lake and Jamestown would provide daily service, strongly fulfilling the DOT's mandate to provide the EAS communities with access to the national air transportation system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact our offices for assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator

HEIDI HEITKAMP
U.S. Senator

KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Representative

Cc: Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, U.S.
Department of Transportation
Dennis DeVaney, Chief, Essential Air Service and Domestic Analysis Division, U.S.
Department of Transportation